United Nations A/AC.253/9/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 April 1999

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
New York, 17–28 May 1999
Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*
Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Contributions from relevant organs, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Contribution from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Secretariat circulates herewith for the information of the Preparatory Committee the attached report of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which is available in English only.

* A/AC.253/5.

99-09857 (E) 140499

Annex

Report on activities of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action

(Ref. "Violence, crime, the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse")

I. Activities undertaken

i) Strategies against illicit cultivation:

1. Alternative development is the main instrument used by UNDCP in its supply reduction strategy. Policy development for alternative development has resulted in new directions for UNDCP: the improvement of the empirical database on illicit cultivation and the further refinement of approaches and methodologies. UNDCP convened a panel of experts at Vienna from 1 to 2 September 1997 to review recommendations elaborated in 1992 on environmentally safe methods for the eradication of narcotic plants. The revised recommendations took into consideration the significant advances in research and development in the previous five years. The experts called for an assessment of the environmental impact of proposed eradication methods using modern approaches approved by the major international pesticide regulatory authorities.

2. UNDCP held also meetings, in June and October 1997, with its regional advisers and chief technical advisers involved at the field level in key alternative development projects. The meetings strengthened linkages between the planning and delivery of technical assistance and have contributed to an evaluation of the feasibility of developing a global strategy to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the coca bush. UNDCP decided to publish a guide on alternative development in the Andean subregion that will provide an overview of factors necessary for the design and implementation of alternative development projects and programmes at both the national and regional levels.

3. UNDCP posted regional alternative development advisers in south and south-east Asia and Latin America to strengthen expertise in alternative development, underlining its commitment to supporting alternative development as a viable tool for reducing illicit crop cultivation. The role of UNDCP shifted away from involvement in fully funded projects and towards advocacy and the provision of support to strengthen the technical, managerial, monitoring and communication capacities of relevant government institutions responsible for alternative development at the national level. In addition, UNDCP continuously made efforts to involve in alternative development programmes other United Nations entities engaged in development work, in order to link them with broader development objectives.

4. UNDCP made substantial progress in enhancing its empirical database on illicit crop cultivation through improved survey methodologies and objective assessments. Substantial progress was made on developing a model for making a comprehensive assessment of illicit crop cultivation, using a combination of methodologies, involving ground, aerial and satellite surveys. UNDCP also provided support for the monitoring of alternative development projects.

ii) Coordinated measures against drug trafficking:

5. During 1996 and 1997, UNDCP provided advisory services and technical assistance to support Governments in their efforts to suppress illicit drug trafficking. The law enforcement programmes covered, *inter alia*, the development of regional law enforcement information schemes, specific cross-border cooperation measures, the strengthening of land borders and seaports and improvements in the implementation of measures to counter illicit trafficking in precursors. The assistance led to the launching of 16 subregional law enforcement programmes in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, as well as in CIS member States.

6. UNDCP continued to strengthen its links with other international entities working in the field of drug law enforcement, particularly the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) and the World Customs Organization. In collaboration with ICPO/Interpol and the World Customs Organization, the Programme reviewed the methodologies for the collection, analysis and distribution of information on illicit drug trafficking issues. Consequently, the three organizations continued to consolidate and share their data concerning individual seizures of illicit drugs, an initiative that is to be completed in 1998. Their common commitment to produce an agreed and more accurate set of figures should pave the way for future collaborative efforts to prepare high-quality strategic analyses. The initiative will enable UNDCP to build up its capacity to produce periodic analytical reports on trends in illicit drug trafficking and to provide comprehensive, reliable information to Member States.

7. Furthermore, operational working links were established with Europol, the European police force. For instance, UNDCP made two presentations to a meeting organized at Valencia, Spain, in September 1997, by the Spanish National Criminal Intelligence Service and Europol on approaches to combating drug trafficking by Latin American criminal organizations.

8. UNDCP has made efforts to revitalize the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerned with drug law enforcement and to enhance their contribution to regional drug law enforcement cooperation. Three of the subsidiary bodies met in 1996. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its thirty-first session, held at Amman from 9 to 13 March 1996, recommended closer cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies and measures to improve the exchange of intelligence, the adoption of measures to counter money-laundering. The Ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held at Cairo from 16 to 20 June 1996, recommended practical measures to improve coordination and liaison between drug law enforcement agencies, the gathering and sharing of intelligence at entry and exit points, the control of postal and courier parcels, measures to deal with corruption within drug law enforcement agencies and improved investigation of money-laundering offences. The Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held at Manila from 4 to 8 November 1996, recommended measures to counter illicit trafficking in stimulants, to counter the activities of drug couriers, to facilitate controlled delivery and to counter illicit trafficking in heroin through improved information exchange.

9. To identify short-term and medium-term measures to enhance operational drug law enforcement cooperation, UNDCP convened specialized technical operational consultations and workshops at the interregional and regional levels. In April 1996, UNDCP, with the support of ICPO/Interpol and the World Customs Organization, organized drug law enforcement workshops in Kyrgyzstan involving the CIS member States in central Asia and States in south-west Asia. Consultations were also organized for Belarus, Poland and Ukraine at Kiev in May 1996 and for Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey at Ankara in September 1996.

10. The revitalization of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEA) has enabled them to become more action-oriented, attending to the practical needs of law enforcement agencies at the national, subregional and regional levels. UNDCP convened the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, at Buenos Aires from 29 September to 3 October 1997. The Meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Argentina, examined measures to counter illicit drug trafficking in synthetic drugs, strategies for dismantling drug trafficking organizations, the use of controlled delivery and the handling of drug informants and undercover agents. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its thirty-second session, held at Baku from 17 to 21 March 1997, adopted the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors.

11. UNDCP initiated action to resume publication of the United Nations drug law enforcement training calendar, which contains information provided by international law enforcement organizations and Member States. Reintroducing the publication will facilitate the provision of international drug-related training assistance, reduce duplication of effort and identify areas that have received too much or too little emphasis.

iii) Coordinated measures against drug abuse:

12. UNDCP provided support to Governments and non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of preventive education strategies and programmes. It sought better coordination between donor and recipient countries, United Nations specialized agencies and programmes and non-governmental organizations and established close linkages between demand reduction objectives and programmes in national health and education sectors. UNDCP worked closely with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, the Pan American Health Organization and the European Commission, as well as with international financial institutions and bilateral programmes.

13. Priority was given to national and regional programmes focusing on preventive education for high-risk groups (such as school-going and street children), epidemiological monitoring and data analyses using common standards and drug abuse prevention in the workplace and to programmes for integrating former drug abusers into society.

14. To enable Governments to understand better the extent and nature of drug abuse, UNDCP enhanced its capacity to support national capabilities to collect and analyse data on drug abuse, particularly by using rapid assessment surveys, in which sociological and anthropological methodologies are followed. Rapid assessment studies have been completed in Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Myanmar and Viet Nam. UNDCP has been providing support to rapid assessment surveys in selected areas in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Turkey.

15. UNDCP continued to use its International Drug Abuse Assessment System (IDAAS), a comprehensive system for data collection and analysis based, *inter alia*, on the replies of Governments to the annual report questionnaires on the implementation of the international drug control treaties. In the context of IDAAS, UNDCP has planned to support Member States in developing their capacity to monitor the drug abuse situation, mainly by providing training in data collection and analysis. To improve its information base, UNDCP cooperated actively with regional epidemiological networks. It concluded an agreement with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction to enhance cooperation in epidemiological research and the exchange of information on demand reduction.

16. The expert forums organized by UNDCP on demand reduction, such as the one held at Hammamet, Tunisia, in July 1996, have served as vehicles to review the drug abuse situation and stimulate and raise awareness of the basic concepts of demand reduction at the subregional level. Future expert forums will be important for the consideration of priority themes identified in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

17. UNDCP cooperated closely with ILO and WHO on model programmes for alcohol a. d drug abuse prevention among workers and their families; the model programmes target five countries: Egypt, Mexico, Namibia, Poland and Sri Lanka. An Alliance of Resource Managers against Drug Abuse (ARMADA) was formed. It is hoped that managers, rather than specialists in substance abuse, will gradually take the lead in drug prevention activities in the workplace. National and regional seminars were held in Egypt, Mexico and Namibia to promote the use of the model. Such seminars have also been planned for Poland and Sri Lanka.

18. UNDCP completed the revision of the annual reports questionnaire, which focuses on key indicators of the prevalence, patterns and trends of drug abuse, as well as mortality and morbidity rates. A meeting of experts on methods of providing information support to international drug programmes was held at Vienna from 20 to 22 October 1997. The meeting, which was attended by experts from regional epidemiological networks, provided advice on the revised questionnaire. The revised questionnaire will be submitted to the Commission at its forty-second session for its consideration. UNDCP has continued to undertake studies aimed at collecting qualitative information on the behaviour of drug abusers and on the risk and protective factors associated with drug abuse.

19. UNDCP completed a cycle of nine regional demand reduction forums that began in 1993. The forums were to foster the regular exchange of information, innovative experiences and methodologies on demand reduction. Eleven countries from the Persian Gulf area were represented at a regional meeting, held at Abu Dhabi from 2 to 4 March 1997, that dealt with the harmonization of data collection systems and the role of social, cultural and religious institutions and the media in the prevention of drug abuse.

20. UNDCP prepared a "youth event" held in Canada from 14 to 18 April 1998, in collaboration with two Canadian organizations and the Governments of Canada, Italy, Norway and Sweden. The meeting resulted in the setting-up of a global network of innovative youth programmes. UNDCP contributed to a similar international youth consultation, jointly organized with UNESCO in Paris, which concluded with the adoption of the Charter for a Twenty-First Century Free of Drugs.

21. The existing joint WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse aimed at promoting standards of good practice at the international level and mobilizing local communities to prevent drug abuse among young people. Non-governmental organizations working with local communities in southern Africa, south-east Asia and eastern Europe are involved in developing approaches and strategies to promote cost-effective community-based prevention and treatment of drug abuse and rehabilitation of drug abusers, particularly among young people.

22. With the launching of the Alliance of Resource Managers against Drug Abuse (ARMADA), UNDCP, ILO and WHO have concluded a global project on model programmes for drug abuse prevention in the community and the workplace. As an independent and managers-led association, ARMADA will advocate the adoption of prevention policies in the workplace. About 250,000 employees from 43 companies in five countries have been reached by the pilot project, which has demonstrated that it pays to introduce drug abuse prevention in the workplace. One of the participating companies in Mexico reported that, following the application of the prevention programme, absenteeism dropped from 7 per cent to 3.7 per cent and the accident rate also fell, while productivity and quality of output increased. The model is being disseminated in the various regions through a series of international conferences for the private sector.

23. UNDCP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO launched a project involving 11 countries that focused on the prevention and reduction of drug abuse as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and development opportunities of young people living in situations of particular vulnerability. This broad multi-agency initiative is a necessity as an increasing number of children are currently not covered by health and social service programmes and are at serious risk of becoming victims of violence, contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, or becoming involved in illicit trafficking and drug abuse. In a programme targeting similar groups of children and young people, UNAIDS and UNDCP are training 900 street educators in drug abuse prevention programmes tailored to young children. Approximately 15,000 street children will be reached through this project, which is aimed at helping children to develop skills needed to cope with difficult situations and to increase their ability to resist becoming involved in drug abuse.

iv) Control of precursors

24. The 1998 Convention entrusts the International Narcotics Control Board with, among others, the responsibility for monitoring the movement of precursors and essential chemicals, in cooperation with governments, taking appropriate steps to prevent their use for illicit manufacture of drugs. With the support of UNDCP, the Board has developed a watching practice to provide for effective monitoring.

25. A review of the recorded data indicates that the role played by the Board has permitted to prevent significant quantities of precursors and solvents such as ephedrine and acetic anhydride to fall in the hands of illicit manufacturers of drugs. During the period 1996 -1998, the prevented diversion involved:
712 tonnes of acetic anhydride; 85 tonnes of 1-phenyl-2-propanone; 48 tonnes of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA, commonly known as "ecstasy", and related drugs; 160 tonnes of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine; and thousands of tonnes of solvents and acids destined to Latin American countries for use in cocaine processing. The quantities involved would have been sufficient to manufacture 285 tonnes of heroin, 40 tonnes of amphetamine, 25 tonnes of MDMA, 104 tonnes of methamphetamine and hundreds of tonnes of cocaine.

26. The Board has recommended to governments specific measures likely to decrease further the availability of precursors and essential chemicals for illicit manufacture of drugs. An increasing number of governments are cooperating with the Board for the application of such measures.

v) Crime prevention

27. The Centre for International Crime Prevention, supported by IGOs and NGOs, provided technical assistance to a number of requesting Governments in respect of needs assessments, project formulation, training seminars, etc. The International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates assisted in the elaboration of rehabilitation programmes, and the International Society of Social Defence in promotion of policies for humanizing criminal law, fostering prison reform and studying methods conducive to the integration of offenders into the community. Other involved organizations and entities include the Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Howard League, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice programme, ISPAC.

28. The crime prevention and criminal justice programme has established a network of affiliated regional institutes and of associated institutes and centres in order to better assist the international community in strengthening international cooperation in this field. They provide a variety of services, including in information-dissemination and -exchange, research, training and public education.

29. Regional activities regarding the prevention of recidivism of offenders through action aimed at their reintegration into society and the workforce have been undertaken by the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD). Also involved in such work is the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) which recently conducted the 109th International Training Course on "Effective Treatment Measures for Prisoners to Facilitate their Reintegration into Society", from 13 April to 2 July 1998.

30. As noted by the General Assembly and the Ad-Hoc Committee, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings has increased throughout the world in recent years, owing to the globalization process and other factors. The problem is exacerbated in both size and seriousness by the growing involvement of organized crime groups. The smuggling of migrants by organized groups disrupts established immigration policies of the destination countries and often involves human rights abuses. The exploitative nature of the treatment of the victims of trafficking often amounts to new forms of slavery. Cases of persons trafficked often involve a considerable number of countries, including a country of origin, one or several transit countries, and a destination country, and may stretch over several continents. Techniques and routes used to organize the smuggling of and trafficking in persons are relatively short-lived. Given the high degree of investigative complexity of such cases and further complications that derive from differing legal systems of countries involved, criminal justice strategies against trafficking in human beings can only be successful if based on close international cooperation of law enforcement, immigration, prosecution, courts and related victims protection and assistance services.

31. In order to better enable Governments and the international community to respond to such transnational problems, the Centre, jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, prepared a global programme against trafficking in human beings. The programme aims at enabling countries of origin and transit as well as destination countries to develop joint strategies and practical action. In the context of technical assistance projects, donor and recipient countries will be able to address a shared problem, transcending bilateralism.

vi) Action against money laundering:

32. In cooperation with CICP, UNDCP launched in October 1996 a global programme against money-laundering valued at US$ 4.3 million. The main activities are aimed at, *inter alia*, raising public awareness, improving understanding of money-laundering, promoting the adoption of relevant legislation, improving law enforcement capacities to combat money-laundering, training and developing infrastructure for the implementation of an effective money-laundering strategy. UNDCP efforts against money-laundering were further substantiated during the Conference on Money-Laundering held at Riga, Latvia, from 13 to 14 November 1996. The Conference was organized jointly by the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, UNDCP, the European Commission and the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission. The Conference adopted a declaration in which the Governments of the three Baltic States agreed to prevent the use of their financial institutions for the laundering of criminal proceeds and to harmonize their national legislation against money-laundering.

33. In 1996, UNDCP provided assistance to counter money-laundering to the following States: Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Haiti, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Nepal, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Swaziland. Support was also provided for the establishment of national units to investigate money-laundering offences, particularly in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela.

34. In 1997, assistance in countering money-laundering was provided to Haiti, Jordan, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. A seminar held at Abidjan in December 1997 for western African States, contributed to efforts to raise awareness of the problems caused by money-laundering, such as the fact that it can impede development. A study on the reversal of the onus of proof in legal proceedings involving money-laundering offences and a training manual for financial investigations were initiated.

35. To attack the financial base of drug trafficking organizations, UNDCP assisted Governments in taking action against money-laundering and in ensuring the confiscation of assets derived from drug trafficking, in line with the provisions of the 1988 Convention. UNDCP launched, jointly with CICP, a global programme against money-laundering, aimed at assisting Governments in countering such activity. To enhance awareness-raising and the provision of technical assistance in countering money-laundering, the Programme strengthened its cooperation with partners such as Interpol, Europol, the European Commission, CICAD, the Commonwealth, the Egmont Group and the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission. In providing expertise to Member States, UNDCP will emphasize the improvement of the investigative capacity of Governments. To overcome obstacles to international cooperation in this field, two studies, one on bank secrecy and the other on the role of offshore centres in providing secure havens for illicit profits derived from drug trafficking and organized criminal activities, were presented to the General Assembly at its special session in June 1998.

II. Proposals for Further Actions and Initiatives

36. From 8 to 10 June 1998, the General Assembly met in a special session devoted to the fight against illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. The Special Session adopted a "Political Declaration" in which Member States re-affirmed their unwavering determination and commitment to overcome the world drug problem.

37. The "Political Declaration" sets out a forward-looking comprehensive strategy for the simultaneous reduction of both illicit supply and demand for drugs and clearly defines target dates for the achievement of both goals. In this framework, the Special Session also adopted the "Guiding principles for Demand Reduction" and sectorial "Action Plans".

38. Specific five-and ten-year time frames commit States to accomplish certain goals or activities, such as adopting national money-laundering legislation and programmes by the year 2003, establishing the same year 2003 as a target date for new and enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes and achieving significant and measurable results in demand reduction by the year 2008, and eliminating or substantially reducing the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, cannabis plant and the opium poppy by the year 2008. Another important time frame is found in paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration, wherein States commit to reporting on their efforts to meet the five-and ten-year targets biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

39. As a follow-up to the Special Session, UNDCP is assisting States in fulfilling their commitment to formulate and implement national strategies to meet the goals and targets they have set for themselves. The programme will also assist in the assessment and monitoring by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the progress made. To fulfill this role, UNDCP has elaborated specific business plans through which it will:

- provide technical advice and expanded assistance to States (and regional and subregional mechanisms) to enable them to develop and implement the strategies and targets established.

- extend appropriate support to the Commission to analyze progress by States in developing and implementing national strategies to fulfill the targets set by (a) assessing the current situation; (b) monitoring progress; (c) analyzing information; and (d) reporting on action taken;

40. With respect to crime prevention, the following are planned efforts deserving particular attention.

41. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Vienna, Austria, 10-17 April 2000) will include research-oriented workshops on the topic of "Community Crime Prevention". The meeting with, among others, aim at identifying technical cooperation initiatives enabling States to further develop community crime prevention programmes. Its recommendations will be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

42. At the request of the General Assembly, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is engaged in the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime as well as of appropriate international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea.

43. Accordingly, a global strategy against smuggling and trafficking in human beings will be formulated in close consultation with relevant national and international organizations. It will be presented for adoption by a high-level conference.

44. The proposed global programme referred to in para 31, on which consultations were held with relevant Organizations, will be part of the Centre's technical assistance programme, and, therefore, subject to extra-budgetary funding. A number technical assistance activities, though, have already been initiated by the Centre and are at different levels of preparation.

45. In addition, a study will be initiated on illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and on the abuse and misuse of explosives for criminal purposes. ECOSOC requested the Secretary-General [1] to prepare, as early as possible and in cooperation with relevant Organizations, an action plan. That plan would involve collecting, reviewing and exchanging statistics, other information and policy proposals dealing with: (a) criminal incidents involving use of explosives substances; (b) diversion of explosives; (c) the status of national legislation and regulations on explosives in individual countries, and (d) relevant initiatives for the regulation of explosives at the regional and international levels.